

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for call conferencing, comprising:

detecting a first access to a conference bridge operable to support a conference call;

receiving a first pass code from the first access; [[and]]

securing the conference bridge using the first pass code received from the first access by

allowing a second access to the conference bridge, the second access based at least partially on the
first pass code from the first access; and

allowing the second access to continue after the conference call begins based at least partially
on a second pass code, wherein the second pass code may or may not equal the first pass code.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~the pass code comprises a first~~
~~pass code; and~~

~~further comprising allowing the second access to continue based at least partially on a second~~
~~pass code, wherein the second pass code may or may~~ does not equal the first pass code.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, further comprising receiving the

second pass code from the first access during the conference call.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein receiving the first pass code comprises:

prompting a participant to identify whether the conference bridge is to be secured; and
receiving the first pass code in response to the participant indicating that the conference bridge is to be secured.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein the second access is based at least partially on the first pass code from the first access when the conference bridge is secured.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising identifying the first access as being associated with a chairperson of the conference call; and
wherein receiving the first pass code comprises receiving the first pass code from the first access in response to determining that the first access is associated with the chairperson.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein allowing the second access to the conference bridge comprises:

prompting a participant for the first pass code;

receiving an identification of one or more depressed numeric buttons on a communication device associated with the participant; and

determining whether the one or more identified numeric buttons represents a numeric sequence associated with the first pass code.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for call conferencing, comprising:

one or more ports operable to receive at least one channel of a plurality of channels for a conference call; and

one or more processors collectively operable to:

detect a first access to a conference bridge operable to support the conference call;

receive a first pass code from the first access; [[and]]

secure the conference bridge using the first pass code received from the first access by allowing a second access to the conference bridge, the second access based at least partially on the first pass code from the first access; and

allow the second access to continue after the conference call begins based at least partially on a second pass code, wherein the second pass code may or may not equal the first pass code.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein ~~the pass code comprises a first pass code; and~~

~~the one or more processors are further collectively operable to allow the second access to continue based at least partially on a second pass code, wherein the second pass code may or may~~
does not equal the first pass code.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the one or more processors are further collectively operable to receive the second pass code from the first access during the conference call.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the one or more processors are collectively operable to receive the first pass code by:

prompting a participant to identify whether the conference bridge is to be secured; and
receiving the first pass code in response to the participant indicating that the conference bridge is to be secured.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the second access is based at least partially on the first pass code from the first access when the conference bridge is secured.

13. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the one or more processors are further collectively operable to authenticate the first and second accesses.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the first pass code comprises a numeric code.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium and operable to be executed by a processor, the computer program comprising computer readable program code for:

detecting a first access to a conference bridge operable to support a conference call;

receiving a first pass code from the first access; [[and]]

securing the conference bridge using the first pass code received from the first access by allowing a second access to the conference bridge, the second access based at least partially on the first pass code from the first access; and

allowing the second access to continue after the conference call begins based at least partially on a second pass code, wherein the second pass code may or may not equal the first pass code.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer program of Claim 15, wherein ~~the pass code comprises a first pass code, and~~

~~further comprising computer readable program code for allowing the second access to continue based at least partially on a second pass code, wherein the second pass code may or may~~
does not equal the first pass code.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer program of Claim 16, further comprising computer readable program code for receiving the second pass code from the first access during the conference call.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer program of Claim 15, wherein the computer readable program code for receiving the first pass code comprises computer readable program code for:

prompting a participant to identify whether the conference bridge is to be secured; and
receiving the first pass code in response to the participant indicating that the conference bridge is to be secured.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer program of Claim 18, wherein the second access is based at least partially on the first pass code from the first access when the conference bridge is secured.

20. (Original) The computer program of Claim 15, further comprising computer readable program code for identifying the first access as being associated with a chairperson of the conference call.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer program of Claim 15, wherein the computer readable program code for allowing the second access to the conference bridge comprises computer readable program code for:

prompting a participant for the first pass code;

receiving an identification of one or more depressed numeric buttons on a communication device associated with the participant; and

determining whether the one or more identified numeric buttons represents a numeric sequence associated with the first pass code.